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THE  
Election-Dialogue,  
BETWEEN  
A GENTLEMAN,  
AND  
His NEIGHBOUR  
In the COUNTRY,  
Concerning the  
CHOICE  
OF  
*Good Members*  
FOR THE  
Next PARLIAMENT.

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*The Election-DIALOGUE,*  
*between a Gentleman, and his Neigh-*  
*bour in the Country, concerning the*  
*Choice of good MEMBERS for the*  
*next PARLIAMENT.*

*Gentleman.* NEIGHBOUR, I am glad to see you. Pray sit down.

*Neighbour.* With all my Heart, Sir: for indeed I have a great Desire to talk a little with you, if you will give me Leave.

*Gent.* I never was more willing, in my Life, to talk with my *Neighbours*: nor ever thought it more necessary, than at this Time, for us all to understand one another, and to act in Concert against the *Common Dangers* that threaten us.

*Neighb.* I understand that we are now call'd upon to chuse Members for a *new House of Commons*: and indeed this was the Reason of my Desire to speak with you. Methinks, Sir, Our *Tumults* and *Heats* have put us into a very unsettled Condition; and much depends upon this *Choice*, now coming on. I cannot pretend to be deeply skill'd in *Publick Affairs*: but I have made my Observations, as any one of the meanest Abilities may do in plain Cases; and should be glad to hear your Sentiments, before I fix my self thoroughly in my own.

*Gent.* It is my way, *honest Friend*, to judge of *Men* by their *Works*; and of *Principles* by their *natural Consequences*; and of the Designs of the several sorts of Persons amongst us, by the visible Tendency of their *Conduct*. I know you have your View at present upon the *Persons* fittest to be *elected* to serve in the next *Parliament*: and therefore I will come to the Point immediately; and freely declare to you that I will give my *Vote*, and all my *Interest*, to those Persons, who have approv'd themselves the *best*

*Friends to Her Majesty* now reigning ; the strongest *Advocates* for the *Protestant Succession* ; the truest *Lovers* of their *Country* and *Country-men* ; and have done most towards an *honourable* and *lasting Peace*. By these four Marks I am resolv'd to guide my Judgment : and if these *Characters* belong to the *Tories*, they shall have me at their Command ; if to the *Whigs*, then I am on *their Side*. These are the Two Names by which Men are now distinguish'd : and we can hardly talk upon this Subject without making use of them.

*Neighb.* I am glad to hear you put the Matter upon *Four* so important Points. I am sure, I desire no better *Marks* : and am resolv'd to follow the same *Rule* my self.

*Gent.* Now you must observe that the *Tories* not only allow, but contend, that *Her Majesty* hath been, for some Years, under the Direction of a *Whig-Ministry*, and *Whig-Parliaments*. Let me then ask you, By *whom* is it that *Her Glory* has been carried to an *unprecedented Height* ? By *whom* hath every thing been done that *She* esteem'd *Glorious to Her self* ? By *whom* hath that *Brave General* been encourag'd, and those *Troops* animated, which had almost reduc'd *Her Enemies* to beg *Peace* ? By *whom* have *vast Sums* of *Mony* been advanc'd to carry forward *Her Interest* and *Honour* ? By *whom* hath the *National Credit* been rais'd to an *unparalleld Pitch* ? By *whom* have the *Allies* been kept in the strictest *Union* and *Concord* ? By *whom* hath every thing been done, or attempted, that could give a *Blow* to *France*, or to the *Pretender* ? Is it not by *those*, whose Advice the *Queen* hath been pleas'd so long to follow, and by their *Friends* and *Adherents*, call'd by the other Party, *Whigs* ? And now turn the *Tables*, To *whose Tumults* is it that we owe the present *Stop* that is put to the Prospect of a *glorious Peace* ? And the raising once more the *Expectations* of *Her Majesty's Enemies* ? And every Degree of *Hope* that the *Enemy* at present shews ? And even another *Invasion* now not unlikely to come upon us ?

*Neighb.* But, Sir, by your Leave I must stop you a little. The *Tories* pretend that they shew their particular Love to their *Queen*, by standing up for the *Queen's Prerogative* more than their *Neighbours*. At this Time, one hears nothing from them, amidst their present *Satisfactions*, they express but a noise about *Power*, and *Prerogative*. And doth not this look like more hearty Friendship to *Her Majesty* than that of the *Whigs*, who don't appear so zealous for *Her Prerogative* ?

*Gent.* I perceive, *Neighbour*, what you aim at, and what sort of Men you have been talking with. *Her Majesty* hath been pleas'd to change *Her Ministry*, and to dissolve *Her Parliament*. How little soever we wished to see this, it is our *Business*



ness and Duty, quietly to acquiesce in what *She* hath judg'd proper to do ; and not to imitate a *Modern Precedent* of Tumult and Discontent. I would not willingly say any thing that should carry the least Shadow of Disrespect along with it, either to Her *Sacred Majesty*, or to Her *Ministry*. But it is but Justice to vindicate those who are abus'd, and to shew the Fallacies of those amongst us who pretend to give such *Reasons* for Things they know nothing of, as are not only injurious to their *Neighbours*, but dishonourable to Her *Majesty's* true Honour and Interest. Upon the present *Conjuncture* you find them, you say, very loud upon the *Prerogative*, and representing the *Whigs* as *Enemies* to it. Now, you must know that by this means they would make the World believe that the *Contest* turns upon *that* which bears not the least part in it. There is no one who ever denied that it is Her *Majesty's* Prerogative to change Her *Ministry*, and to dissolve Her *Parliament*. The *Whigs* are as free to acknowledge it, as the *Tories* themselves. But then it is as plain, on the other side, that it is in Her *Prerogative* likewise, *not* to change the one, or dissolve the other ; and that the *Royal Prerogative* is seen, as much in the *not doing*, as in the *doing* these : So that as to the Point of *Prerogative*, here is no difference in the present *Case*, after all their Outcries. The *Whigs* hope, it is neither *Treason*, nor *Criminal*, that, before they knew Her *Majesty's* Pleasure, they wish'd the *Continuance* of a *wise* and *successful Ministry*, and of a *Parliament* that, with the greatest Zeal, prosecuted the *Publick Interest*. They flatter themselves that their Wish was founded upon the Principles of true Love, and Regard to Her *Honour*. And they can but pity the Weakness of those of their Fellow-Subjects, who are so impos'd upon as to imagine that the *Prerogative* was not as much regarded by *them*, as by *others*. It is just as it is in the *Case* of *Peace* and *War*. To make *Peace* is not more truly a part of the *Prerogative*, than *not* to make *Peace*. It is just as it is in our private Affairs. My *Prerogative* is not more seen in dismissing those I have a Power to dismiss, than in retaining those whom I have a Power to retain. Which way of exerting the *Prerogative* would have been best, it is not our Parts to determine. I have only been shewing you that the *Prerogative* would have been equally exerted, and equally seen both ways, in the *Case* you are now pointing at. As for other Instances, search all *Accounts* since the *Revolution*, and consult *Experience*, and they will satisfy you, who they are that, since the *Exclusion* of the *Papish Line*, have been most for putting *Cramps* and *Fetters* upon the

*Royal Prerogative.* Take it from me, *Neighbour*, they that talk loudest of *Prerogative*, are not always the best Friends to *those* who have the *Prerogative*. No Men talk more of it than our *Papists* and *Jacobites*: and yet I wou'd not have you conclude them the best Friends to the *Crown*. You see now how vain the Pretence is that the *Tories* are so much superior in their Regards to the *Prerogative*, since, which Method sooner had been taken, *that* had been equally concern'd.

*Neighb* Well, but some of our *Neighbours* say, Why may not *others* manage Affairs, as well as the *Whigs*?

*Gent.* For my own part, I do so truly love my *Queen*, and my *Country*, that I heartily wish they may. And I am perswaded they will use their utmost Endeavours even to out-do their Predecessors. But of Events to come we cannot judge. In the mean while, I would not have those, who know nothing of these Matters, pretend to fix such a Thing upon Her *Majesty*, as if She had dismissed Persons who had serv'd *Her* with prodigious Success, meerly because *others* might possibly serve *Her* as well.

*Neighb.* But then again, I am ask'd whether it been't fit that *new* Persons should come in for their Share of the *Spoils* of the Nation, and the Profit of great Places.

*Gent.* It is Her *Majesty's* good Pleasure that they should come in: and in this Case, that is Ground enough for us to acquiesce. But since some of your *Neighbours* will be putting it upon this, that the *Whigs* have almost fill'd their *Pockets*, and that it is reasonable that *others* should have their Time; give me leave to say that no one that hath any Respect for Her *Majesty* or Concern for the *Publick*, can talk thus, when he considers what he saith. In answer therefore to such as argue thus, it is to be replied, That if this be not true, that the *Whigs* have been thus intent upon filling their *Pockets*; it is extremely to their *Glory*, and ought to be reckon'd to their *Advantage*. But if it be true, I would only ask, *Doth not a Pocket almost full require less to fill it, than a Pocket quite empty?* If therefore the business be filling of *Pockets*, as this Argument supposes, the *Whigs* are near at an End of *that*, and so might have finished things quickly for the good of the Nation. But if you suppose new *Pockets* to be filled likewise, this must still retard Affairs a great deal longer. I know this way of talking hath been used by many *Tories*. But I must tell you, that whilst they pretend this way to expose the *Whigs*, they do a great prejudice and dishonour to their own Friends, who, I am confident, will not thank them for such Suppositions. Besides that if this Argument be good, the *Whigs* must come in

in again in their turn; which I fear, they will not allow. But it is now time for me to ask you what you think of this *First* mark, *true Love* to *Her Majesty*.

*Neighb.* Truly, Sir, I am perfectly satisfied that *Love* to *Her*, doth not consist in *High-flown Expressions*; and talking loud about *Power*, and *Prerogative*. I cannot but agree, that *they* have shewn the truest *Love* to *Her*; who have lent most *Money* to support *Her*; who have united *Her Kingdom* at Home, and put *Heart* into *Her Forces*, and *Her Allies* Abroad; who have actually raised *Her Glory* to be the *Admiration* of *Europe*. In truth therefore, if it depended upon this, which of the *two* have given the greatest *Proofs* of true *Love*; I should be resolved to *Vote* on the *Whig-side*.

*Gent.* We will go on now to the *Second mark*, that is, *Regard* to the *Protestant Succession*. You know, *Neighbour*, the *Popish Line*, though nearest in *Blood*, hath been excluded by *Act* of *Parliament*; and the *House* of *Hanover* nam'd expressly to succeed *Her Majesty* dying without *Issue*, upon the *Throne* of this *Kingdom*. That which us'd to be called *Hereditary Right*, by nearness of *Blood*, is set aside; and all our *Security* rests upon the last *Act* of *Settlement*. Now then, can you think, that it can be for the *Interest* of this *Protestant Succession* in that *House*, to bring up a noise about *Hereditary Right* again, and to be ashamed of mentioning that which is *Parliamentary*? And is not this the present *Proceeding* of our *Tories* upon all *Occasions*. Let them mean never so *Innocently*, and be never so firm inwardly themselves, for the *House* of *Hanover*; yet is not this helping the *Jacobites* to a *Tool* to *Work* with? And must it not have very bad *Consequences*? On the contrary, is it not more hearty in the *Whigs*, to lay all upon that *Act* of *Parliament* plainly, by which alone that *Family* can *Claim* next to *Her Majesty*.

*Neighb.* The *Case* needs no dispute, upon this *Head*. I can see so much, that a *Zeal* for *Parliamentary Right*, cannot possibly do mischief to our *Parliamentary Establishment*. But a *Zeal* for *Hereditary Right*, may do unspeakable *Prejudice*, amongst those who do not, and cannot, know the sound *Sense* in which some use that *Term*. But, Sir, I have heard the *Whigs* taxed with never mentioning the *House* of *Hanover*.

*Gent. Honest Friend*, There is a sort of out-facing the *World* sometimes in *Fashion*. The *Cue* is agreed upon, to turn every thing against those who *Object* it to others. It is an *Aive* the *Tories* give themselves. I only ask again, The *House* of *Hanover* being settled entirely upon *Parliamentary Right*: which is most for their *Interest*, to stand up for *Parliamentary Right*, or to revive a *Zeal* for *Hereditary*, which hitherto hath been understood to be quite another thing? I defy them to shew, that ever the *Whigs*

omitted any fair opportunity of particularly naming that *Family*, when there was the least Occasion. This I am sure of, that their *Principles* oblige them by natural Consequence, to be zealous for it. But the *Principles* of our *Tories* are so irreconcilable (at least seemingly) to the *Protestant Succession*, that they are often forced to endeavour to wipe off that Imputation; and we must be content with their own *Professions*, that they are in that Interest, instead of such *Principles* as appear to look the same way. This makes a vast difference between the two sorts of Men. The *Whigs* maintain such *Principles*, as lead them to a Zeal for that *Illustrious Family*. The *Tories* profess to have equal Zeal for it, but maintain such *Principles*, as will hardly bear such a Zeal.

*Neighb.* Nay, I have been told, that the *Whigs* are to bring in the *Pretender*; and the like.

*Gent.* I know it, *Neighbour*. This is another Specimen of the same dexterity of the *Tories*. And it came from hence. The *Tories*, you know, profess *Absolute Unlimited Non-resistance*. Now you honest Men in the Country, who are not acquainted with nice Distinctions, are perfectly satisfied, that the *Prince of Orange* came over with *armed Soldiers*, that many of us took Arms, and join'd with Him; that King *James* upon this was frightened away; that we fought against Him in *Ireland* afterwards, and the like. You will hardly let them out-face you, that this was not *Resistance*. This *Resistance* is the Foundation of all our *Settlement*; and if that were not lawful, then we are now under the *Guilt* of a *national Sin*, and obliged in Conscience to go back again. Now the *Tories* say, that *Resistance* in all possible Cases is damnable. The *Whigs* tell them, that this condemns the *late Glorious Revolution*; and undoeth every thing that's settled upon it; and makes it the *Nations Duty* to receive the *Papish Line* again. The consequence is so plain, that you cannot but see it. Nay, *This*, and *Hereditary Right*, are the only points that make *Jacobites*. The *Tories* not being able to deny the Justice of the consequence, have only this way left, *viz.* to profess, that though they hold the same *Principles* with the *Jacobites*, yet they mean no such thing; and at the same time, to take up the Humour to divert the *Scandal* from themselves, upon the *Whigs*. This is not so much *artful*, as it is *resolute*; because it is done with this Disadvantage, that the *Principles* of the *Whigs* evidently tend another way; but the *Tory principles* do manifestly tend to *this*, whether they see it themselves, or no. The *Whigs* allow and applaud *Resistance* in Cases of *Extremity*: The *Tories* condemn it in *all*. Consequently, the *Whigs* account the *Late Revolution* *Glorious*, together with what is built upon it; and can very consistently maintain, that there is no occasion for *Restitution*, where there

was



was no *Crime*. The *Tories*, on the contrary, maintaining the *Absolute Unlawfulness* of *Resistance* in all Cases, leave others to draw that unhappy Conclusion, that *Resistance* at the *Revolution* was unlawful, that all built upon it is so too; and that *Restitution* to the *Popish Line*, is an indispensable Duty. Compare *Principles* with *Principles*; *Addresses* with *Addresses*; and you will see on whom you can with Reason most depend, for the *Security* of your *Religion*, and *Liberties*. You will see who they are that revile, and lessen your *Glorious Deliverer*, and *Glorious Deliverance*; that never mention them with *Honour*, but when it is not convenient to do otherwise; and who they are, consequently, that are most likely by *Principle*, to adhere but coolly to what is built upon it, and easily to yield you up to the *Consequence* of their own *Doctrines*.

*Neighbb.* I am glad you have said so much upon this. I shall know the better what to say to those, who are objecting these things to me. I am perfectly clear in this, that there is a vast Advantage in a *Zeal* by *Principle*; and that *they* must be the most hearty for our *Protestant Establishment*, who maintain such *Principles*, as plainly tend to make them so. I will not say, that all the *Tories* are sensible what their *Principles* tend to, or that they all believe the *Principles* they profess; but this I will say, that what they do generally profess, cannot tend to the honouring of the *Late Revolution*, or to the securing the *Protestant Succession*. They may possibly join in upholding it; but it will not be, by *Virtue* of their *Principles*, or by any *Perswasion* that they ought to do so. I confess, I like *them*, who not only tell us they will do it, but the *Reasons* and *Grounds* which engage them to do it, much better than *others* who tell us likewise they will do it, but at the same time openly, and with *Zeal*, espouse a set of such *Pull-back* *Principles*, as will not let them, unless *Nature* be again ready to *Rebel* against *Principle*, which is not always to be trusted to. But I beg your Pardon, pray go on.

*Gent.* The next *Mark* by which we are to judge, is *Love* to their *Country*, and their *Countrymen*. And this is much the same with the former. Do *they* shew their *Love* to *you*, and your *Posterity*, who are ever complementing their *Prince* with your *Lives*, and *Fortunes*; who always speak of you as *Slaves*; who deny that you have any *Right* to defend your *Laws*, and *Liberties*, against even the greatest *Oppression*, and *Tyranny*; who make the *Prince* above all *Laws*, and declare, that whatever attempts are made, *you* are obliged in *Conscience* to submit, with the profoundest *Humility*, to your *Destiny*; who, by this means, disgrace the *Revolution*, that sav'd you from *Ruin*, and shake all your *Hopes* of future *Happiness*? You know, whatever they say at some Seasons, whatever they

they believe, whatever they pretend in private; these are the *publick Doctrines* of the *Tories*, and propagated with a flaming Zeal, as their *peculiar Characteristicks*. The *Whigs*, you know, ever maintain you to be *Freemen*, and not *Slaves*; and even when they are uppermost themselves, contend, not only that you have *Rights* and *Priviledges*, but likewise a *Right* to defend them, when they are universally invaded. Now, which of these shew most *Love* to their *Country*, and *Countrymen*?

*Neighb.* The *Case* is manifest. *Slavery* is not *Happiness*. The teaching of *Slavish Doctrines*, is no great sign of *Humanity*, and *Love* to others. And therefore it is next to being ungrateful to the greatest of *Deliverers*, for us to neglect and disregard those who have ever asserted his *Honour*, and continue to maintain the *Principles* of true *Liberty*; as it is a sort of *Stupidity* to stand up for those, in all whose *Addresses*, and *Declarations*, we make no other Figure, but that of *Beasts* or *Burthen*, or *Gally-Slaves*. But they say, Sir, that the *Whigs* are for all *Licentiousness*, and for *undermining Government*, and the like.

*Gent.* It is like the rest of their sayings, and for want of something else to say. Have not the *Whigs*, *Land*, and *Money*, and *Wives*, and *Children*, as well as others? And doth not *Nature* give them as great a desire of living *Quiet*, and *Peaceable*, and free from *Confusion*, as their *Neighbours*? They cannot name any one *Principle* of theirs tending that way. The *Lawfulness* of *Resistance* in *Cases* of *Extremity*, which is in order to prevent *Tyranny*, and *Misery*, and to settle a *good Government*, is all they ever contended for. They can name no Man of them in his *Senses*, who ever contended for more. The *Truth* of this they themselves are not able to deny, when they are pinch'd. And therefore, they are forced, because they can't deny it, to misrepresent the *Whigs*, and make them say, what they never said, nor Thought.

*Neighb.* I confess, I never knew any one in my Life, who lov'd *Confusion* at that rate. I have seen indeed a late instance of *Tumults*, and *Riots*, and a *Passive-obedience-Saint* at the Head of them. And have greater reason from *Experience*, to conclude the *Tories* to be *Friends* to all *Confusion*, than the *Whigs*. But what will you say to the *Last Mark* you mention'd?

*Gent.* If we enquire who they are that have done most to give you *Peace*, you must remember, that we are speaking, not of a *Patch'd-up-Peace*, which would immediately break out into a *War* again; but of a *Safe*, *Honourable*, *Lasting Peace*; a *Peace* upon such conditions, as will certainly hinder the *French King* from disturbing *Europe* any more. This could be done by nothing but winning *Battles*, and gaining *Towns* as fast as *Opportunity* offer'd. All this hath been done, by the help of *Whig-Money*,  
and

and a *Whig-Administration*; nay, it hath been done to the *Assurance* of all about us.

*Neighb.* But they say, the *Duke of Marlborough* protracts the War, and delays Peace?

*Genl.* They will always say what they please. But do they prove it by any one colourable Argument? As much as they have given out this, it is probable from some appearances, that their *Friends* now at the helm, will not it last thank them for this; for they seem to wish, that He would continue *General*. And if they do, his Voice must influence as much as ever, in the *Affair of Peace*, and then they must incur the Imputation of this delay equally. But if they do not; is it not more likely, that a new *General* (who must ever have influence) will be desirous of Lengthening the time, in Order for his *private Advantage*, than that He will do it, who hath got so much already, and is grown Old with *Care* and *Fatigue*. But all this is *Calumny*. Do you think the *Allies* so weak, that they would permit him to hinder any Peace, that could answer the *Ends* of this War? No, no. Depend upon it, there is no appearance that He hath acted any part, but that of a *Glorious General*, taking such steps, as must without any Ceremony in a short time, have forced the *French King* to have taken what Terms the *Allies* see fit. The great Successes in *Spain*, are likewise owing to the influences of the *Whig-Administration*: and particularly to a *General*, who nobly pleaded against *Tory-principles*, for your *Liberties* at Home, and then as nobly went forth, and fought for them *Abroad*. And if you will consult your own Senses, who they are at this time, that have cut short our present Hopes of a good Peace, ask, who they are that have raised Tumults among us, and reviv'd *Doctrines*, and *Terms*, by which the *Papish Claim* is kept up; and the Answer will satisfy you.

*Neighb.* I hope all true *Englishmen* will shew the *Tories* by their Votes at the next Election, how much they are indebted to them, upon this Head. They always us'd to pretend that their *Friends* would bring us Peace, which others were against. I do not find that they themselves do so much as pretend that we are now the nearer to a Good Peace, for our late *Tory-Tumults*, and *Heats*. Had it not been for these, indeed, our great Successes in *Spain*, and *Flanders*, must unavoidably have brought it within our View. Nay, I can see so much, that whenever that Blessing comes, it must be owing to what hath been done already; and for my part, I will never be so ungrateful as not to acknowledge it, whensoever it comes, to be the Work of those, whose past Services have paved the way to it, with so much Wisdom, and so wonderful Success.

There

There is one thing still behind, of which I find more Advantage is made, than of any other pretence whatsoever; and that is the perpetual Insinuation that the *Church Establish'd* is in Danger from the *Whigs*, and that deep Designs are laid by them against it. This seems to stick with many of our *Neighbours*, who would not otherwise do as they do.

*Gent.* It is a very hard Case, *Neighbour*, indeed, that so moving an *Accusation* can be fram'd by any who profess themselves *Christians*, without the least Ground to support it. When they who scatter such Suggestions are call'd to answer for it, they solemnly profess that they mean not any thing peculiar either to the *Whigs*, or to the *Church of England*, but a Danger from *Atheism*, *Infidelity*, and *Profaneness*; which you see, belong to *Tories* equally, and threaten all *Churches* equally. And for once let's take their Word; tho' fore against their Will. You are acquainted with several *Gentlemen* herabouts, who are call'd *Whigs*, whom you know to be as great Ornaments to the *Church*, and as constant *Frequenters* of it, at least, as any of their *Tory-Neighbours*. I had almost said, more so. You know they give all Proofs of their Affection to it, but such as would ruin it, and make it a Prey to *France* and *Rome*. And generally, all over *England*, they are as good *Churchmen*, as the other Party: and this is no great Complement neither. Nay, I will go farther and tell you, that the main of what hath been done by the *State* for the *Church*, or *Clergy*, hath been done by *Whig-Counsels*, *Whig-Parliaments*, and what is call'd a *Whig-Administration*. It is not in their Power to name one single Instance of this part of their *Accusation* against those whom they thus abuse.

*Neighbb.* I have heard some pretend that their *Hatred* of the *Church* is manifest from their late *Impeachment* of Dr. S — I. But I thought I could answer my self to that Pretence, that it is a Sign to me of their *Love* to the *Church*, that they should be jealous to the greatest Degree of the *Honour* of that *Revolution*, which sav'd it, and of that *Protestant Succession* which alone can secure it. Besides I have heard that the *Tories* themselves universally acknowledg'd the Doctor's *Sermon* highly blamable; that the Doctor himself was call'd a *Mad-man* by themselves, and hath been spoken of as one that should have been treated as a *Lunatick*, and kick'd from the *Bar* of the *House*. Now, Sir, methinks, if the *Tories* themselves speak thus of the Man, this shews more *Contempt* of the *Clergy* than the *Proceedings* of the *House of Commons* against him; which are now come to be accus'd of only paying him too much Honour.

*Gent.* Indeed you are in the right of it. The *Commons* thought that he abus'd our *Constitution*, revil'd the *Administration*, rais'd a Spirit



Spirit of *Variance* and *Uncharitableness* in the *Land*, found fault with the *Laws* themselves, and shook the whole Frame of our *Establishment*. I enter not into the Merits of the *Cause* now. I only ask, which sort shew'd most Regard to the *Man himself*; the *Whigs*, who seriously prosecuted *him*, whom they look'd upon as a publick *Enemy*; or the *Tories*, whose general way of arguing for *him* was, that he was a *Madman*, not worthy of so much Notice? But it is a very hard *Case*, if the *Church* must be hook'd in, as a *Sufferer* in what is truly for its true *Interest*, and greatest *Security*? But it seems they will not let us judge by *Fact*, and *Experience*, but are resolv'd to think the *Interest* of the *Church*, wherever the Noise of it is. Do you know of any thing else they alledge in Proof of this Accusation?

*Neighb.* I have often heard it alledg'd, that the *Whigs* always vote with the *Dissenters* in all *Elections*, and shew Kindness to them, and the like.

*Gent.* You should say rather that the *Dissenters* vote with the *Whigs*. And what if they do? Must it therefore follow that the *Whigs* are forming Designs against the *Church*? Pray, next time you meet with any such *Arguers* as these, do so much as ask them, whether the *Papists* are of the *Reform'd Church* of *England*? Whether they be not sworn *Enemies* to it? Whether they do not universally profess to endeavour its Ruin if possible? Which can't be said of the *Body* of other *Dissenters*. Ask them, on whose Side the *Papists* always make Interest? And how comes it about that the *Dissenting Interest* being generally on one Side makes the *Whigs* guilty; and the *Popish Interest* being on the other Side, cannot make the *Tories* guilty of any Designs against the *Church*? Nay, is it not wonderful, that particular *Friendships* with *Papists*, and working by their *Interest*, should make Men be accounted the better *Churchmen*? And that the bare standing up for the *Toleration* of *Protestant Dissenters* should be a Proof of evil Designs against the *Church*, even when *Her Majesty* hath declar'd it shall be maintain'd *inviolable*; and when the *Tories* themselves are forc'd to profess, when they are carrying forward some of their own Designs, that it is absolutely necessary to be preserv'd, and never to be infring'd? What shall we come to at last, if *Popery* be thought no *Enemy*; and a *Protestant Dissenter* be not thought worthy even of common *Civility*? Were we not all glad, at the *Revolution*, of the Assistance and Votes of our *Protestant Brethren* to save us from Ruin? And ought we not now to rejoice that they vote so as to preserve us from the return of the same Misery? But I suppose this is a Mark of ill Designs, only where they vote for

for *Whigs* : for where they chance to vote for a *Friend*, there it is all right, and no such Evil is pretended. And if it be so scandalous to have such *Fanatical Votes*, why hath so much Pains been taken of late to obtain them? And what are some of the *Tories* greatest Friends likely to gain by this way of arguing, who have been often chosen by the *Votes* of some *Dissenters*? To sum up what I have said, If it be an Argument of *Enmity*, or *Danger* to the Church from the *Whigs*, that the *Protestant Dissenters* generally vote with them; then it must be equally an Argument of *Danger* from the *Tories*, that the *Papists* (tho' they cannot vote themselves) make all their Interest on their *Side*.

But now I will go a little farther, and give you a clearer Account of this matter, that you may know on which side the Scandal lies. I will first observe to you, that the *Papists*, and *Dissenters*, cannot be accounted equally *Enemies* to the Church of England; because the latter agree in *Doctrinal Points*, and the *Fundamentals* of Christianity with the Church, and their Teachers subscribe all our *Articles* relating to *Doctrine*; whilst the former esteem us an *Heretical Society* of Men, and in a *State of Damnation*, till we return again to the Church of Rome. So that on this Account, the Interest of the *Papists* on one side, is more Suspicious, than that of *Protestant Dissenters* on the other. And then consider that, as to our *State* and *Civil Constitution*, since the late *Hapty Revolution*, our *Papists*, and *Jacobites* (for they are united in this part of the Debate) are professedly labouring against the *Protestant Succession*. To destroy that is in all their *Wishes*, and all their *Designs*; nay, it is made by their principles part of their Duty. You may be sure they will join with those, whose *Principles*, and *Conduct*, they imagine, may be most conducive to their End. I do not say, that they judge the *Tories* to be most for their purpose, and therefore give them their Interest. Nay, It will be hard to give any other *Reason* for their Zeal on the side of the *Tories*, than this, that they think their Proceedings tend to do that cause Service, which is still kept up, as professedly as ever. This is what I think an Argument that should a little move every one of you, that there is another Title to this Crown kept up by our *Papists*, and *Jacobites*, in opposition to that of Her Majesty, and the House of *Hanover*; that this is the great Contest now on Foot; that these sort of persons must guide their *Conduct* in all *Elections*, as may best serve their main Cause. And therefore I think it one good Rule

*Rule to you, that you should never give your Vote on that side, with which the Stream of the Jacobite Interest runs; because I cannot imagine, but that they know something of the Secrets of things: And I cannot think of any other Reason for their Zeal for the Tories, but because they think the general Tendency of Tory principles, and Politicks, favours their grand Cause. Now, on the other side, it is notorious that all the Hope of the Protestant Cause, lies in the Security of the Protestant Succession, and that the Dissenters, as Protestants, are bound not only by Principle, but Interest, to do all in their Power towards that. From hence it appears, that the Reason of their voting with the Whigs, is because they imagine them to be entirely in the Interest of the House of Hanover, as well as most hearty to preserve their Toleration. Here then is a very remarkable difference. The Dissenters are led by their Principles in Civil Affairs, and their Interest, as they are Protestants, to Vote for the Whigs. These are sufficient and apparent Reasons, without supposing, that they think the Whigs to be in designs against the Established Church: They Vote for them, as those who are most openly, and plainly in the Interest of the Protestant Succession, and the Toleration of them as Fellow-Protestants. Here is some colour and ground for it, without supposing any Enmity to the Church; and thus they would Vote on these Accounts, supposing they thought the Whigs never so hearty for the Church. On the other side, as long as our Papists, and Jacobites are led by their Principles, and prosecute that Cause which is never out of their Eye; there can be no tolerable, and plain Reason assign'd for their falling in with the Tories; but because they judge the Tories in their Behaviour, more serviceable, and less hurtful, to the Cause of their Master, and of the Popish Line. Now then do you perceive, on which the Scandal lies? When so good a Reason may be given for the Dissenters voting for the Whigs, without concerning the Church in the matter; and when there is a Reason for the Papists using all their Interest for the Tories, that hath so pernicious a look upon our Protestant Establishment; and the same Enmity to the Church, at least, if not greater, may be with as much Reason suspected in those whom our Papists look upon as their Friends. The Church, and the Protestant Dissenters, it is manifest, have now one common Interest in the Protestant Succession, as they had at the Revolution, in opposing Popery and Arbitrary Power. But neither State, nor Church can have one common Interest with the Papists, to give any plausible Account of their great Zeal for the Tories, upon all Occasions. But I will not trouble you with*

Repe.

**Repetition.** The more you consider what you have given me this opportunity of speaking to you, the more, I am perswaded, you will see, what it is fit, and reasonable to do.

*Neighb.* I think my self oblig'd to you for your *Civility*. I am fully satisfy'd that all this *Noise* about the *Danger* of the *Church*, is a groundless, malicious *Calumny*, as far as the *General Body* of the *Whigs* are concern'd. I am convinc'd by *Matter of Fact* that the *Whigs* have given the most effectual *Proofs* of their *Love* to the *Queen*, by a long *Series* of such *Services*, as I shall be heartily glad to see equall'd by any others. I am sure, their *Principles* and *Conduct*, tend openly, and without any doubtful *Expressions*, to secure the *Glory* of our great *Deliverance*, and the *Succession* in the *Protestant Line*. They treat us their *Fellow-Subjects* as *Freemen*, whilst others bind us like *Slaves* in *Chains*. They have been ready to do all *Things*, that in reason could be desir'd, for the *Church*, even beyond their *Neighbours*: and they have done nothing against it. And I am very sure that those who have added so much *Glory* to Her *Majesty*, and carried on the *War* so successfully, will be found at last to have contributed most towards a *glorious* and *lasting Peace*. And upon all these *Accounts*, I esteem my self bound, in *Duty*, and *Interest*; in *Regard* to Her *Majesty*, my *Religion*, and my *Country*; in *Tenderness* to my *self*, my *Family*, and my *Posterity*, to use all my poor *Endeavours* for the *chasing* into the next *Parliament* such honest *Gentlemen*, as others call *Whigs*; but I call, the *heartiest Friends* to the true united *Interest* of the *Queen*, the *Church*, and the whole *Nation*.

*Gent.* Fare you well. I pray God give us all the same *Resolution*!

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F I N I S.







